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# NASA Procedural Requirements

**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**

**NPR 8020.12C**

Effective Date: April 27, 2005

Expiration Date: April 27, 2010

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## **Subject: Planetary Protection Provisions for Robotic Extraterrestrial Missions**

**Responsible Office: Science Mission Directorate**

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### **Preface**

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#### **P.1 Purpose**

This document sets forth NASA requirements applicable to robotic planetary flight programs. These requirements are necessary to enable the Science Associate Administrator to fulfill his/her responsibilities pertaining to planetary protection, as required by NPD 8020.7 (Biological Contamination Control for Outbound and Inbound Planetary Spacecraft). This document specifically addresses (1) the control of terrestrial microbial contamination associated with robotic space vehicles intended to land, orbit, flyby, or otherwise encounter extraterrestrial solar system bodies, and (2) the control of contamination of the Earth and the Moon by extraterrestrial material collected and returned by robotic missions.

#### **P.2 Applicability**

- a. The provisions of this document apply to NASA Headquarters, NASA Centers, including Component Facilities, and to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as specified in its contract.
- b. The requirements of this document apply to all robotic missions that may encounter other solar system bodies, including those to and from the Earth's Moon, and to all robotic solar system exploration missions returning extraterrestrial samples to the Earth or the Moon.
- c. This document is specifically not applicable to the following:
  1. terrestrial (Earth-orbital) missions.
  2. human missions, except for Shuttle-launched, but otherwise robotic, planetary missions.
- d. NASA officials responsible for applicable flight programs and projects will impose these requirements in such directives or contractual instruments as may be necessary to ensure their implementation.

#### **P.3 Authority**

NPD 8020.7, Biological Contamination Control for Outbound and Inbound Planetary Spacecraft

#### **P.4 References**

Biological Contamination Control for Outbound and Inbound Planetary Spacecraft, NPD 8020.7, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C. (1999).

NASA Standard Procedures for the Microbial Examination of Space Hardware, NPR 5340.1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C. (1980).

#### **P.5 Cancellation**

This document replaces NPR 8020.12B, dated April 16, 1999.

/s/ A.V. Diaz  
Associate Administrator for  
Science Mission Directorate

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